

# A SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. 1911-2016



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## **PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is committed to the idea that selecting and educating men for future service can be accomplished best by a uniform intake process. Therefore, any activities which conflict with the program presented by the Regional Intake Team are expressly prohibited. Also, please note that there is no reference to pledging as a concept or practice in this guide. "Pledging" was abolished by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1985.

As you prepare for a basic understanding of the history and progress of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., it is anticipated that you will review this material carefully in preparation for passing an examination required of all applicants for membership.

The study guide is not intended to serve as an official history of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. It is a selected compilation of essential information found in the two official history books authored by Herman Dreer and Robert L. Gill, copies of the Oracle (1962-1985), the personal files of Edward J. Brayton, Jr. and data contained at the International Headquarters.

This document is intended to serve as a convenient source of basic information for you as an applicant for membership.

The History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 1911-1939, by Herman Dreer, and The History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 1911 – 1961 by Robert L. Gill should be read whenever the books are available.

A special acknowledgement and tremendous appreciation are extended to Brother Edward J. Brayton, Jr., Past Grand Basileus, for authoring the original version of this summary history.

S. Earl Wilson

Executive Director

May 2002

2002 Revised Edition

## **INTRODUCTION**

Phi Beta Kappa, the first American college fraternity, was organized on the campus of the College of William and Mary in 1776. Men and women are members of this honorary scholarship society.

Greek-lettered fraternities and sororities have played a major role in American college life since 1776. Black college fraternities and sororities did not emerge until the early 1900s. Unlike their white counterparts, the black groups have played a major role in the cultural, social, and civic life of their communities.

The member organizations of the National Pan-Hellenic Council are:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Howard University, 1908  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Howard University, 1913  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Butler University, 1922  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Howard University, 1920  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Cornell University, 1906  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Indiana University, 1911  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Howard University, 1914  
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Morgan State University, 1963  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Howard University, 1911

## **THE BIRTH OF OMEGA**

On Friday evening, November 17, 1911, three Howard University undergraduate students, with the assistance of their faculty advisor, gave birth to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. This event occurred in the office of biology professor Ernest E. Just, the faculty advisor. The three liberal arts students were Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman.

From the initials of the Greek phrase meaning "Friendship is essential to the soul," the name Omega Psi Phi was derived. The phrase was selected as the motto. Manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift were adopted as cardinal principles. A decision was made regarding the design for the pin and emblem, and thus ended the first meeting of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

The next meeting was conducted on November 23, 1911. Edgar A. Love became the first Grand Basileus (National President). Cooper and Coleman were selected as Grand Keeper of Records (National Secretary) and Grand Keeper of Seals (National Treasurer), respectively. Eleven Howard University undergraduate men were selected as charter members.

Alpha Chapter was organized with fourteen charter members on December 15, 1911. Love, Cooper, and Coleman were elected the chapter's first Basileus, Keeper of Records, and Keeper of Seals, respectively.

On March 8, 1912, the previously submitted fraternity constitution was rejected by Howard University. The fraternity was authorized to function as a local, but not a national organization. The fraternity refused acceptance as a strictly local organization.

Oscar Cooper became the fraternity's second Grand Basileus in 1912. Cooper authorized the investigation of a proposed second chapter at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

Edgar Love was elected as the third Grand Basileus in 1912 and served until 1915. In 1914, Howard University withdrew its opposition, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia on October 28, 1914. Beta Chapter at Lincoln University was chartered in February 1914.

George E. Hall, the fourth Grand Basileus, had been initiated at Alpha Chapter in 1914. Grand Basileus Hall authorized the establishment of Gamma Chapter in Boston, Massachusetts. However, the chapter was eventually established during the administration of the fifth Grand Basileus, James C. McMorries.

During the administration of the sixth Grand Basileus, Clarence F. Holmes, the fraternity's first official hymn, "Omega Men Draw Nigh," was written by Otto Bohannon.

Raymond G. Robinson, the seventh Grand Basileus, established Delta Chapter in Nashville, Tennessee in 1919. Robinson left office in 1920 with a total of ten chapters in operation.

Stanley Douglass served as editor of the first Oracle published in the spring of 1919.

Harold K. Thomas, the eighth Grand Basileus, was elected at the 1920 Nashville Grand Conclave. It was at this Grand Conclave that Dr. Carter G. Woodson inspired the establishment of National Achievement Week to promote the study of Negro life and history.

The 1921 Atlanta Grand Conclave brought to an end the first decade of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

### **INTERNAL GROWTH**

In 1922, Grand Basileus J. Alston Atkins appointed the first District Representatives. Today, there are twelve such officers who are elected annually by the district conferences/meetings.

In 1922, the office of Vice Grand Basileus was created. The Grand Keeper of Records became the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. The first Omega Bulletin was published in 1928. Campbell C. Johnson was the editor.

"Omega Dear" was adopted as the official hymn in 1931. Two faculty members from Howard University, Charles R. Drew and Mercer Cook, professor of languages, were the composers. Cook wrote the music and first stanza; Drew wrote the last two stanzas.

### **THE FORTIES**

The Omega "Sweetheart Song," with words and music by Don Q. Pullen, was adopted as the official sweetheart song by the 1940 Nashville Grand Conclave.

Founder Ernest E. Just entered Omega Chapter in 1941.

In 1941, Dr. Charles Drew perfected the use of blood plasma as a lifesaving tool. This work earned him the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1944.

William Hastie resigned as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War in protest against discrimination in the Armed Forces. He was later appointed Governor of the Virgin Islands by President Truman.

In 1949, the first National Headquarters Building at 107 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. was purchased.

H. Carl Moultrie was selected to serve as the first National Executive Secretary.

In 1949, the scholarship fund was renamed the Charles R. Drew Memorial Scholarship Fund.

### **THE FIFTIES**

During this era, the thrust was social change. Thousands of Omega men in every area of the country were actively involved in the fight to eliminate racial discrimination. An entire book could be written about this phase of Omega activities.

The 1955 Los Angeles Grand Conclave initiated a program whereby each graduate chapter would purchase a Life Membership from the NAACP. Between 1955 and 1959, chapters contributed nearly \$40,000 to the NAACP.

In the fifties, Omega Psi Phi took an official position against hazing as a fraternity activity. This anti-hazing position remains in effect today, and the policy banning hazing has been strengthened.

### **THE SIXTIES**

The struggle for social justice shifted into high gear. Brothers were active participants in the "sit-ins" and other demonstrations designed to call attention to the discrimination that existed within the country. Brothers were actively involved in the demonstration aspect of the civil rights struggle.

In 1961, the Washington, D.C. Grand Conclave did an excellent job of highlighting the fifty years of accomplishment by Omega. Brothers attended the 1961 Golden Anniversary Conclave in record numbers. Founders Love, Cooper, and Coleman were present. Thirteen of twenty-three former Grand Basilei were in attendance. Young brothers had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to mingle with some of the greatest black men that America had produced.

The Golden Anniversary Conclave authorized \$140,000 - \$150,000 for the construction of a new National Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C.

In 1964, the new National Headquarters Building was dedicated. The building was a dream come true and was the first building of its type built by a black fraternity. Founders Love, Cooper, and Coleman participated in the ceremonies. The name was later changed to the International Headquarters. It is located at 2714 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

In 1966, Robert H. Lawrence was selected as the first Black to serve in the astronaut program. Lawrence had earned a Ph.D. degree in chemistry at Ohio State University.

Founder Frank Coleman entered Omega Chapter in 1967.

The 1968 Charlotte Grand Conclave mandated a constitutional convention for the revision of the Constitution and By-Laws as well as the Ritual. The constitutional convention was held in Atlanta, GA in 1969.

## **THE SEVENTIES**

The newly revised Constitution and By-Laws and the Ritual became effective at the close of the 1970 Pittsburgh Grand Conclave.

H. Carl Moultrie I, Omega's only National Executive Secretary to this point, was appointed as a judge to the Superior Court of Washington, D.C. in 1972. Moultrie's resignation was accepted with regrets. Omega conferred upon Moultrie the title of National Executive Secretary Emeritus, which was later changed to Executive Secretary Emeritus.

The seventies brought more unpleasant news. Founder Oscar J. Cooper entered Omega Chapter in 1972. In 1974, Edgar A Love, the only surviving founder, entered Omega Chapter.

In December 1974 the 56<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave was held in Phoenix, Arizona. The 56<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave, upon recommendation by the Supreme Council, authorized an expenditure of \$15,000 to erect a permanent monument to the four Founders of the Fraternity. Two architecture students at Howard University, both of whom were members of Alpha Chapter, submitted sketches. The sketch submitted by Sampson P. Boozer was selected. Frank B. "Frankie P" Patterson, Chairman of the Founders Monument Committee, orchestrated, through the Supreme Council, the construction of the monument. The foundation was laid and the monument shipped and installed on the campus of Howard University on September 15, 1975.

On Sunday, November 16, 1975, thousands of Omega men, their families, the families of the Founders, and many friends gathered in front of Thirkield Hall for the unveiling and dedication of the 18 ton granite monument.

A revived Life Membership Program resulted in a very large number of new Life Members.

The 1976 Atlanta Grand Conclave was the largest in the history of the fraternity up to that point in time.

Many new undergraduate chapters were chartered because of the increased enrollment of black students and previously all-white colleges and universities.

"Operation Big Vote" was successful in getting thousands of black people to vote in the 1976 election. Many Omegas were active participants.

The 1979 Denver Grand Conclave made a commitment to contribute a minimum of \$250,000 to the United Negro College Fund over the next few years.

## **THE EIGHTIES AND NINETIES**

In 1981, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity endowed its first Omega Faculty Chair. Rust College, Holly Springs, Mississippi, was the recipient. President W. A. McMillan stated that the Chair would be used to promote the humanities.

The fraternity completed its \$250,000 contribution to the United Negro College Fund, and organization under the direction of Christopher Edley. The fraternity approved a plan to continue the annual gift of \$50,000 to that organization in perpetuity.

The fraternity accelerated its financial support to the National Urban League. Mr. John Jacobs, Executive Director of the National Urban League, participated in Grand Conclaves on a regular basis.

Jesse Jackson, former president of Operation P.U.S.H., and founder of the Rainbow Coalition, attended Grand Conclaves on a regular basis and received support for these organizations as well as for his 1984 and 1988 campaigns for the presidency of the United States.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Conclave celebration was deemed to be the single most significant event on Omega's horizon. The dates selected were July 25-August 1, 1986 in Washington, D.C., the city of Omega's birth. It was the largest Conclave ever.

Grand Basileus Moses C. Norman, Sr., elected at the 1984 Louisville Grand Conclave, appointed a committee to review the structure and operations of the fraternity as a means of future focus. In 1984, John S. Epps was selected as only the fifth Omega Man to wear the title of Executive Secretary. In 1990, the title was changed to Executive Director.

Two revised methods of bringing members into the fraternity were approved by the organization. Pledging was abolished and the new Membership Selection and Education Program came into being on August 1, 1985. In April, 1991, the new Membership Intake Program was implemented.

Initial plans were begun for the writing of an updated history of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. H. Carl Moultrie, I, Executive Secretary Emeritus and Ronald E. McNair, noted astronaut, entered Omega Chapter. Don Q. Pullen and W. Mercer Cook also entered Omega Chapter.

C. Tyrone Gilmore, Sr. became the 34<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus in June 1990. Under his leadership, a site for a new World Center and International Headquarters in Decatur, Georgia was identified. Also, the complete structure was revamped and the International Chapters were transformed into the thirteenth district.

Dorsey C. Miller, Jr. was chosen as the 35<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus at the Cleveland Grand Conclave in 1994. Miller's administration was responsible for closing the sale in regard to the acquisition of the new property, located at 3951 Snapfinger Parkway, Decatur, Georgia 30035, and the disposition of the property located at 2714 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Georgia Avenue location had served as the headquarters of the fraternity for thirty-one years.



Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq. became the 36<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus in 1998 at the 70<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jordan's administration was instrumental in combating litigations as a result of illegal hazing activities, thus keeping the fraternity's infrastructure in tact. June 1, 2000, Sylvester Earl Wilson began his tenure as the Executive Director.

### **THE NEW MILLENIUM**

George Grace became the 37<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus in 2002 at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Grand Conclave in Charlotte, NC. Grace's administration was responsible for setting the fraternity on a course of financial solvency through its theme of economic empowerment for social and political change.

Warren Lee became the 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus in 2006 at the 74<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave in Little Rock, AR. Lee's administration fostered a new era in Omega in terms of visionary leadership and aligning the fraternity's programs with a singular point of focus. Lee also undertook efforts to reorganize the fraternity's structure and to recalibrate Omega's relationships with her affiliate organizations.

Dr. Andrew Ray became the 39<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus in 2010 at the 76<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave in Raleigh, NC. Brother Ray's administration ushered in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this illustrious organization with a Centennial Celebration in Washington, D.C. in July of 2011. Dr. Ray's administration took bold steps to perpetuate the fraternity's undergraduate presence by seeding undergraduate endowments at: Alpha Chapter (Howard University), Beta Chapter (Lincoln University), Eta Gamma Chapter (Central State University), Beta Sigma Chapter (Southern University), Tau Epsilon Chapter (Texas Southern University), Rho Psi Chapter (Tennessee State University), Phi Psi Chapter (Langston University), Beta Gamma Chapter (Cheyney University), Gamma Epsilon Chapter (Hampton University), and Mu Psi Chapter (North Carolina A&T University).

Antonio Knox became the 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus in 2014 at the 79<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave in Philadelphia, PA. Bro. Knox's administration continues the long legacy of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift established by his predecessors and our Founders.

Omega has continued to flourish largely because Founders Love, Cooper, Coleman, and Just were men of the very highest ideals and intellect. The Founders selected and attracted men of similar ideals and characteristics.

It is not by accident that many of America's greatest black men are/were Omega men. To this date, there are very few Americans whose lives have not been touched by a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Omega has a rich heritage to be protected, celebrated, and enhanced.

**APPENDIX I**  
**Founders**

**Dr. Ernest E. Just**  
**(1883-1941)**

Ernest E. Just was born in Charleston, South Carolina.  
Graduated from the Industrial School of the State College, Orangeburg, South Carolina.  
Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, New Hampshire  
Bachelor of Arts Degree, Dartmouth College (Phi Beta Kappa)  
Doctor of Philosophy Degree, University of Chicago  
Awarded the Spingarn Medal by the NAACP, 1915

**Professor Frank Coleman**  
**(1890-1967)**

Frank Coleman was born in Washington, D.C.  
Graduated from the M Street High School, Washington, D.C.  
Bachelor of Science Degree, Howard University, 1913  
Master of Science Degree, University of Chicago  
Advanced Training, University of Pennsylvania  
Professor and head of the Physics Department, Howard University  
U.S. Army Officer, World War I

**Dr. Oscar J. Cooper**  
**(1888-1972)**

Oscar J. Cooper was born in Washington, D.C.  
Graduated from the M Street High School, Washington, D.C.  
Bachelor of Science Degree, Howard University, 1913  
Doctor of Medicine Degree, Howard University, 1917  
Practiced medicine in Philadelphia, PA for 50 years

**Bishop Edgar A. Love**  
**(1891-1974)**

Edgar A. Love was born in Virginia  
Graduated from the Academy of Morgan College  
Bachelor of Arts Degree, Howard University, 1913  
Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree, Howard University, 1916  
Bachelor of Divinity Degree, Boston University, 1918  
Doctor of Divinity Degree (Honorary), Morgan College, 1935  
U.S. Army Chaplain, World War II  
Bishop, Methodist Church

## APPENDIX II GRAND BASILEI

	NAME	TERM OF OFFICE	
1	Edgar A. Love	1911-1912	Deceased
2	Oscar J. Cooper	1912-1913	Deceased
3	Edgar A. Love *	1913-1915	Deceased
4	George A. Hall	1915-1916	Deceased
5	James C. McMorries	1916-1917	Deceased
6	Clarence F. Holmes	1917-1918	Deceased
7	Raymond G. Robinson	1918-1920	Deceased
8	Harold H. Thomas	1920-1921	Deceased
9	J. Alston Atkins	1921-1924	Deceased
10	John W. Love	1924-1924	Deceased
11	George E. Vaughn	1924-1926	Deceased
12	Julius S. McClain	1926-1929	Deceased
13	Matthew W. Bullock	1929-1932	Deceased
14	Lawrence A. Oxley	1932-1935	Deceased
15	William E. Baugh	1935-1937	Deceased
16	Albert W. Dent	1937-1940	Deceased
17	Z. Alexander Looby	1940-1945	Deceased
18	Campbell C. Johnson	1945-1947	Deceased
19	Harry T. Penn	1947-1949	Deceased
20	Milo C. Murray	1949-1951	Deceased
21	Grant Reynolds	1951-1953	Deceased
22	John F. Potts	1953-1955	Deceased
23	Herbert E. Tucker, Jr.	1955-1958	Deceased
24	I. Gregory Newton	1958-1961	Deceased
25	Cary D. Jacobs	1961-1964	Deceased
26	George E. Meares	1964-1967	Deceased
27	Ellis F. Corbett	1967-1970	Deceased
28	James A. Avery	1970-1973	Deceased
29	Marion W. Garnett	1973-1976	Deceased
30	Edward J. Braynon, Jr.	1976-1979	
31	Burnel E. Coulon	1979-1982	
32	L. Benjamin Livingston	1982-1984	Deceased
33	Moses C. Norman, Sr.	1984-1990	
34	C. Tyrone Gillmore, Sr.	1990-1994	
35	Dorsey C. Miller	1994-1998	
36	Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq.	1998-2002	
37	George H. Grace	2002-2006	
38	Warren G. Lee	2006-2010	
39	Andrew Ray	2010-2014	
40	Antonio Knox	2014-Present	

\* Elected to position for a second time.

### APPENDIX III GRAND CONCLAVES

<i>No.</i>	<i>Conclave City</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Conclave City</i>	<i>Year</i>
1st	Washington, D.C.	1912	42nd	Baltimore, MD	1956
2nd	Washington, D.C.	1913	43rd	St. Louis, MO	1957
3rd	Washington, D.C.	1914	44th	Cleveland, OH	1958
4th	Oxford, PA	1915	45th	New York, NY	1959
5th	Washington, D.C.	1916	46th	San Antonio, TX	1960
6th	Oxford, PA	1917	47th	Washington, D.C.	1961
7th	Washington, D.C.	1918		(50th Anniversary)	
8th	Boston, MA	1919	48th	Indianapolis, IN	1962
9th	Nashville, TN	1920	49th	Denver, CO	1964
10th	Atlanta, GA	1921	50th	Detroit, MI	1965
11th	Philadelphia, PA	1922	51st	Boston, MA	1967
12th	St. Louis, MO	1923	52nd	Charlotte, NC	1968
13th	Washington, D.C.	1924	53rd	Pittsburgh, PA	1970
14th	Tuskegee, AL	1925	54th	Houston, TX	1971
15th	Chicago, IL	1926	55th	St. Louis, MO	1973
16th	New York, NY	1927	56th	Phoenix, AZ	1974
17th	Indianapolis, IN	1928	57th	Atlanta, GA	1976
18th	Baltimore, MD	1929	58th	New Orleans, LA	1977
19th	Detroit, MI	1931	59th	Denver, CO	1979
20th	Richmond, VA	1932	60th	San Francisco, CA	1980
21st	Durham, NC	1933	61st	Miami, FL	1982
22nd	St. Louis, MO	1934	62nd	Kansas City, KS	1983
23rd	Atlanta, GA	1935	63rd	Louisville, KY	1984
24th	Philadelphia, PA	1936	64th	Washington, D.C.	1986
25th	Cleveland, OH	1937		(75th Anniversary)	
26th	Chicago, IL	1938	65th	Dallas, TX	1988
27th	New York, NY	1939	66th	Detroit, MI	1990
28th	Nashville, TN	1940	67th	Atlanta, GA	1992
29th	Indianapolis, IN	1941	68th	Cleveland, OH	1994
30th	Little Rock, AR	1944	69th	Los Angeles, CA	1996
31st	Washington, D.C.	1945	70th	New Orleans, LA	1998
32nd	Fort Worth, TX	1946	71st	Indianapolis, IN	2000
33rd	Detroit, MI	1947	72nd	Charlotte, NC	2002
34th	Columbus, OH	1948	73rd	St. Louis, MO	2004
35th	Chicago, IL	1949	74th	Little Rock, AR	2006
36th	Boston, MA	1950	75th	Birmingham, AL	2008
37th	Miami, FL	1951	76 <sup>th</sup>	Raleigh, NC	2010
38th	Philadelphia, PA	1952	77 <sup>th</sup>	Washington, D.C.	2011
39th	Cincinnati, OH	1953		(100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	
40th	Atlanta, GA	1954	78 <sup>th</sup>	Minneapolis, MN	2012
41st	Los Angeles, CA	1955	79 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia, PA	2014
			80 <sup>th</sup>	Las Vegas, NV	2016

No conclaves in 1930, 1942, and 1943. From 1962-1986, Conclaves were scheduled every 18 months (except for 1983). After 1986, Conclaves were scheduled every 2 years.

**APPENDIX IV  
HISTORICALLY & PREDOMINANTLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENTS**

Clafin College	Dr. Henry N. Tisdale
Edward Waters College	Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr.
Enterprise State Jr. College	Dr. Stafford L. Thompson, Sr.
Grambling State University	Dr. Steve Favor
Hampton University	Dr. William R. Harvey
Howard University	Dr. H. Patrick Swgert
Kentucky State University	Dr. George W. Reid
Lincoln University of Pennsylvania	Dr. Ivory V. Nelson
Meharry Medical College	Dr. John E. Maupin, Jr.
Morehouse College	Dr. Walter E. Massey
Morris College	Dr. Luns C. Richardson
Rust College	Dr. David L. Beckley
Sojourner-Davis College	Dr. Charles W. Simmons
Tennessee State University	Dr. James A. Hefner
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr.
Virginia State University	Dr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr.
Wiley College	Dr. Haywood Strickland

## APPENDIX V

### INTERNATIONALLY MANDATED PROGRAMS

**ACHIEVEMENT WEEK** - Originally designed to promote the study of Negro life and history. Achievement Week is observed in November of each year and is designed to seek out and give due recognition to those individuals at the local and international levels who have made a noteworthy contribution toward improving the quality of life for black Americans. A High School Essay Contest is to be held in conjunction with Achievement Week. This contest is open to all college-bound high school seniors. College scholarships are awarded to the winners, each of whom must submit an essay on a theme/topic chosen by the fraternity. This contest is a phase of the International Achievement Week observance.

**SCHOLARSHIP** - The Scholarship Program is intended to promote academic excellence among the undergraduate members. Graduate chapters are expected to provide financial assistance to student members and non-members. A portion of the fraternity's international budget is allocated to scholarships through the Charles R. Drew Scholarship Commission.

**SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMS** - All levels of the fraternity are expected to facilitate, participate and coordinate activities that will uplift their communities. An international committee will coordinate the multifaceted programs of the various chapters. Some of the activities under the umbrella of social action include, but are not limited to: voter registration, education and "getting out the vote"; Assault on Illiteracy; Habitat for Humanity; volunteering time to charities and less fortunate individuals; mentoring; and participation in fundraisers for charities such as American Diabetes Association, United Way, Sickle Cell Anemia, etc.

**TALENT HUNT PROGRAM** - This program provides exposure, encouragement and financial assistance to talented young people participating in the Performing Arts. Winners of the competition are awarded recognition for their talents. Awards may include college scholarships.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE** - March 12<sup>th</sup> of each year has been established as Memorial Day. Chapters are expected to conduct an appropriate service to recall the memory of those members who have entered into Omega Chapter.

**RECLAMATION AND RETENTION** - A concerted effort at the international, district and local levels to retain active brothers and return inactive brothers to full participatory status so that they may enjoy the full benefits of Omega.

**COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND** - Each year the fraternity gives at least \$50,000.00 to Historically Black College Institutions (HBCU) in furtherance of Omega's commitment to provide philanthropic support. Chapters are assessed donations based on chapter size.

**HEALTH INITIATIVES** - All levels of the fraternity are expected to facilitate, participate and/or coordinate activities that will uplift their communities by promoting good health practices. An international committee will coordinate and facilitate multifaceted programs of the various chapters, districts, etc. It is anticipated that all local chapters will execute the health directives at the local level. Some of the programs under the umbrella of Health Initiatives are the Charles Drew Blood Drive (normally held in June), AIDS/HIV Awareness, and the American Diabetes Association Partnership. This does not prevent the local chapters from performing additional health initiatives under the umbrella of the Health Initiatives mandate.

**VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION AND MOBILIZATION** - All levels of the fraternity are expected to facilitate, participate and/or coordinate activities that will uplift their communities

through the power of the vote. An international committee will coordinate and facilitate multifaceted programs of the various chapters, districts, etc. It is anticipated that all local chapters will execute the directives at the local level. This does not prevent the local chapters from performing additional voter initiatives under the umbrella of the Voter Education, Registration and Mobilization mandate.

**NAACP** - Every district and chapter of the fraternity is required to maintain a Life Membership at Large in the NAACP. In the event that a chapter or district is not a life member of the NAACP, it must maintain a yearly membership to be in good standing with the fraternity. Furthermore, all members of the fraternity are strongly encouraged to become members of the NAACP.

**(Chapters are required to administer these programs annually.)**

## APPENDIX VI NOTABLE OMEGA MEN

These are but a few of the many representatives of whom Omega is proud.

### ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Langston Hughes	The Black Poet laureate, excelled as a poet, playwright, novelist, lyricist, and humorist.
Sterling Brown	Teacher, poet, writer, Professor Emeritus of Literature at Howard University, has a special foundation for folk culture and jazz music.
Roland Hayes	Internationally known tenor of the 1920s. Hayes sang in five different languages.
William (Count) Basie	Internationally known pianist, composer, arranger, and band leader.
Don Q. Pullen	Pianist and composer; composed the “Sweetheart Song” of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Moses Gunn	Actor of stage and screen.
Charles Byrd	Actor
William H. (Bill) Cosby	TV, Film, Comedian
Steve Harvey	TV, Comedian
Tom Joyner	Radio host
Wanya Morris	Singer – Boyz II Men
Maxwell Leonard Roach	Jazz musician
Rickey Smiley	TV, Comedian
Joe Torey	TV, Comedian

### CIVIL RIGHTS

Grant Reynolds	Played a major role in President Truman’s 1948 decision to desegregate the United States Armed Forces.
James Nabrit	Former Dean of the Howard University Law School and former president of Howard University. A leader in the training of the early civil rights lawyers.
Wiley Branton	Attorney for the “Little Rock Nine” and former Dean of the Howard University School of Law.
Roy Wilkins	Long-time Executive Director of the NAACP.
Benjamin Hooks	Succeeded Roy Wilkins as Executive Director of the NAACP. Hooks retired in 1992.



Vernon Jordan	Noted attorney and former Executive Director of the National Urban League.
Jesse Jackson	Former Director of Operation P.U.S.H.; Founder, National Rainbow Coalition.
Fred Gray	Attorney for Rosa Parks and the Montgomery, AL Improvement Association.

## **EDUCATION**

Carter G. Woodson	The earliest and most outspoken proponent for the study of Black History.
Benjamin Mayes	President Emeritus of Morehouse College, writer and lecturer
Herman Dreer	Teacher, minister, writer, and author of the History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 1911-1961.

## **GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

William Hastie	First Governor of the Virgin Islands.
George L. P. Weaver	Former U.S. Secretary of Labor.
Robert C. Weaver	Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
Clifford L. Alexander, Jr.	Secretary, Department of the Army.
Jesse Jackson	Candidate for the United States Presidency in 1984.
Lawrence Douglas Wilder	Former Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Thurbert Baker	Georgia Attorney General.
Bill Campbell	Former mayor, Atlanta, GA.
James Clyburn	U.S. Congressman from South Carolina – U.S. House of Representatives.
J. Gary Cooper	U.S.A. Ambassador to Jamaica.
Roscoe Robinson	First Black four-star general – U.S. Army.
Matthew Zimmerman	Former Chief of Chaplains – U.S. Army.
Togo West	Former Secretary of the Army.
Gerald Lewis James, II	Lt. Governor, U.S. Virgin Islands.
Dr. Bernard Kincaid	Mayor, City of Birmingham, AL.
Ronald Langston	National Director, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce.

James Sharpe	Mayor, Newark, NJ.
Paul Stephenson	Mayor of Willingboro, NJ.
Robert Weaver	Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Kweisi Mfume	Former Congressman and President of the NAACP

## **MEDICINE/SCIENCE**

Ernest E. Just	Internally known biological and professor at Howard University.
Charles R. Drew	Perfected the use of blood plasma; Professor of Surgery at Howard University.
Percy L. Julian	Discovered the use of foam to extinguish fires and discovered a method of producing cortisone synthetically.
Ron McNair	Astronaut, graduate of North Carolina A&T University, graduate of MIT, Ph.D.
Frederick Gregory	Astronaut, graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (pilot), Commander of two Space Shuttle Missions (Space Shuttle Discovery and Space Shuttle Atlantis), nephew of Dr. Charles Drew.
Charles Bolden	Astronaut, graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Administrator of NASA, Commander of two Space Shuttle missions (Space Shuttle Atlantis and Space Shuttle Discovery).
Dr. Warren Jones	President, American Academy of Family Physicians.
Dr. David Satcher	Former Surgeon General of the United States of America.

## **MILITARY**

Clifford L. Alexander Jr.	Former Secretary of the Army.
Joe Ballard	Lt. General, U.S. Army (Ret)
James E. Donald	Major General, U.S. Army
Ernest Harrell	Major General, U.S. Army (Ret)
James H. Monroe	Major General, U.S. Army (Ret).
William Russ	Major General, U.S. Army
Abe Turner	Brig. General, U.S. Army
Kip Ward	Lt. General, U.S. Army

Togo West                      Former Secretary of the Army.

## **BUSINESS/COMMERCE**

Gillard S. Glover	Former President of Afro-American Life Insurance
Nathaniel Bonner	Former co-owner of Bonner Brothers Beauty Supplies
Albert Byrd	Vice-President, Xerox Corporation
Gregory Calhoun	Calhoun Enterprises
Vergis Colbert	Executive Vice-President of Operations, Miller Brewing Co.
Howard Dawson, Jr.	Dawson Management Company
Thomas Dortch	National Chairman, 100 Black Men of America
Jim Elam	President, Bellmount Park Laboratory; President, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Credit Union
Tony Grant	Bank of America
Joseph W. Goodloe	Former President, N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co.
Dr. Ronald Goldsberry	Vice-President, Ford Motor Company
Earl S. Graves, Sr.	CEO, Black Enterprise Magazine
Jesse Hill	Former President, Atlanta Life Insurance Co.
Robert Holmes	Vice-President, Alabama Power Co.
William J. Kennedy III	Former President, N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co.
Byron Lewis	CEO, Uniworld Group, Inc.
Edward Lewis	CEO, Essence Communications, Inc.
Therman McKenzie	CEO, McKenzie Chemical
T.C. Newman	Owner, Mill Cove Golf Club
Otis Smith	General Counsel, General Motors Corp.
Isaiah Tidwell	President, Wachovia Bank of Georgia
Dave Moss	Entrepreneur

## ATHLETICS

DeHart Hubbard	A University of Michigan sprinter; was the first Black person to represent the United States in the Olympic Games (1924)
Joe Black	An all-time great Brooklyn Dodger baseball pitcher. In 1952, he had the lowest earned run average in the major leagues.
Ray Armstead, U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist	Robert Pourche, NFL
Erich Barnes, NFL	Greg Pruitt, NFL
Eric Bienemy, NFL	Ahmad Rashad, NFL, TV
Clifton Blanchett, Pro Bass Fisherman	Dr. Sanford Rivers, NFL Official
Zach Crockett, NFL	Eddie Robinson, NFL
Michael Charles, NFL	Alvin Robertson, NBA
David Coleman, NFL Official	John Sallay, NBA, TV
Johnny Davis, NFL	Al Smith, NFL
Tony Delk, NBA	Ryan Stewart, NFL
Ken Dollar, NFL Official	Andre Tippett, NFL
Mark Duper, NFL	Terrance Trammell, U.S. Olympic Silver Medalist
Greg Favors, NBA	Elston Turner, NBA Assistant Coach
William Floyd, NFL	Shammond Williams, NBA
Irving Fryar, NFL	Corliss Williamson, NBA
Randy Fuller, NFL	Charlie Ward, Jr., NBA
William Fuller, NFL	Matthew "Matt" Snell, NFL
Keith Jackson, NFL	Maurice "Mo" Vaughn, MLB
Ed "Too Tall" Jones, NFL	Dr. Leroy T. Walker, Former President of the U.S. Olympic Comm.
Michael Jordan, NBA	Ray Lewis, NFL
David Justice, MLB	Dominique Wilkins, NBA
Kevin Mack, NFL Official	Billy Hunter, Executive Director, NBA Players Association
Martin Mayhew, NFL	Michael Conley, Sports Agent
Cedric Maxwell, NBA	Stephen A. Smith, Sports Reporter, TV Personality, & Host
Raleigh McKenzie, NFL	
Reggie McKenzie, NFL	
Steve McNair, NFL	
Alonzo Mourning, NBA	
Ozzie Newsom, NFL Executive	
Shaquille O'Neal, NBA	

## **APPENDIX VII POEMS AND OTHER MATERIAL**

### **Preamble to the Constitution of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity**

We, the members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, believing that men of similar ideals of fellowship should bind themselves together in order to form a more perfect union among college men, to promote the principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift, to further brotherly love and fraternal spirit within the organization, to protect the sanctity of the home and the chastity of woman, do enact and establish the Constitution and accompanying Bylaws for the government of its members.

### **Members Versus Men**

The value of your Fraternity is not in numbers, but in men, in real brotherhood. Eight men thoroughly immersed in the true Omega Spirit are far greater assets than eighty with lukewarm enthusiasm.

Do thy duty that is best; leave onto the Lord the rest.

### **Omega Dear By Mercer Cook & Dr. Charles Drew**

Omega Dear, we are thine own,  
Thou art our life, our love, our home.  
We'll sing thy praises far and nigh,  
We love Omega Psi Phi.

To all thy precepts make us true,  
Live nobly as all real men do,  
Let manhood be our eternal shrine;  
With faith in God, and heart, and mind.

Through days of joy or years of pain,  
To serve Thee'er will be our aim,  
And when we say our last goodbye,  
We'll love Omega Psi Phi.

### **Sweetheart Song By Don Q. Pullen**

Dear Omega Girl, I love you  
With a love that is divine:  
Swear by all the stars above you  
That my love will be but thine.  
When the moon appears those pleasant mem'ries,  
Then I have you near but not for really,  
Dear Omega Girl, I love you –  
Sweetheart of Omega Dear.

**See It Through**  
**By Edgar A. Guest**

When you're up against a trouble meet it squarely face to face.  
Lift your chin, set your shoulders, plant your feet and take a brace.  
When it's vain to try and dodge it, do the best that you can do,  
you may fail, yet you may conquer – see it through.

Black may be the clouds about you and your future may seem grim.  
But don't let your nerve desert you – keep yourself in fighting trim.  
If the worst is bound to happen in spite of all that you may do,  
running from it will not save you – see it through.

Even hope may seem but futile when with troubles you're beset,  
But remember you are facing just what other men have met.  
You may fail, but fall still fighting – don't give up whate'er you do.  
Eyes front, head high, to the finish – SEE IT THROUGH!

**Psalms 133**

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard – even Aaron's beard that went down to the skirts of his garment as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord commanded the blessings – even life, forever more. Amen.

**Invictus**  
**William Ernest Henley**

Out of the night that covers me,  
black as a pit from pole to pole.  
I thank whatever gods may be,  
for my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance,  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance,  
my head is bloody but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears,  
looms but the horror of the shade.  
And yet the menace of the years,  
finds, and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how straight the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.

### **Gentleman**

A gentleman is a person who is clean  
inside and outside...  
Who neither looks up to the rich nor  
down on the poor...

A gentleman is a person who can lose  
without squealing, and who can win  
without bragging...

A gentleman is a person who is  
considerate to women, children, and  
old people, who is too brave to lie,  
too generous to cheat, and too sensible  
to loaf...

A gentleman is a person who takes his  
share of the world's goods and lets  
other people take theirs.

### **To Artina Langston Hughes**

I will take your heart  
I will take your soul out of your body  
As though I were God.  
I will not be satisfied  
With the little words you say to me  
I will not be satisfied  
With the touch of your hand  
Nor the sweet of your lips alone.  
I will take your heart for mine.  
I will take your soul.  
I will be God when it comes to you.

### **Life Paul Lawrence Dunbar**

A crust of bread and a corner to sleep in,  
A minute to smile and an hour to weep in,  
A pint of joy to a peck of trouble,  
And never a laugh, but the moans come double;  
And that is life!

A crust and a corner that love makes precious,  
With the smile to warm, and the tears to refresh us;  
And joy seems sweeter when cares come after,  
And a moan is the finest of foils for laughter;  
And that is life!

**Mother To Son  
Langston Hughes**

Well son, I'll tell you:  
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair,  
It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor –  
Bare.  
But all the time  
I's been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark  
Where there ain't been no light.  
So boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps  
'Caus you find id's kinder hard.  
Don't you fall now –  
For I's still goin', honey,  
I's still climbin,  
And life for me ain't been on crystal stair.

**The Bridgebuilder  
W.A. Dromgoole**

An old man going a lone highway  
Came at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast, and wide, and steep,  
With waters rolling cold and deep.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fears for him.  
But he turned when safe on the other side,  
and built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near.  
“You're wasting your strength with building here.  
Your journey will end with the ending day.  
You never again will pass this way.  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
Why build you this bridge at eventide?”

The builder lifted his old, gray head.  
“Good friend, in the path I've come” he said.  
“There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
The journey that was as naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim -  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”



**If**  
**By Rudyard Kipling**

If you can keep your head when all about you  
are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting, too.  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise;

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim,  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two imposters just the same:  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things your gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch and toss,  
And lose and start again at your beginnings,  
And never breathe a word about your loss.  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve their turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count on you but none too much:  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
with sixty seconds worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And – which is more – you will be a man, my son!

**It Couldn't Be Done  
By Edgar Guest**

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it";  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.